

Remarks

This is in supplement to the Amendment filed on April 14, 2003. Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended, support for the amendments being found, for example, at page 1, lines 24-32, and page 6, lines 1-29, of the present application. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives during the interview held on May 1, 2003. During the interview, claim 1 of the present application and Mitchell, U.S. Patent No. 4,339,934, were discussed. Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's willingness to consider supplemental amendments and remarks. The amendments and remarks included herein are consistent with the discussions held during the interview.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended to more clearly recite the shape of the strip. Specifically, the noted claims have been amended to indicate that the strip is of a wedge-shaped cross section having one edge region that is thicker than another edge region.

Also included herewith are supporting Exhibits A and B. Exhibit A is a declaration from the inventors. The declaration identifies the problems associated with rolling an asymmetric strip of wedge-shaped cross section, such as axial shifting of the strip. The declaration also states how the present invention has resolved these problems in a beneficial and unexpected manner.

Exhibit B is a letter from a representative of Sundwig GmbH, a large German firm involved in the production of rolling mills and strip processing lines. The letter describes prior art systems used by Sundwig to process strips of wedge-shaped cross section and the problems associated therewith. The letter also describes how Sundwig has used screening systems manufactured by BFI, assignee of the present application, made in accordance with the present invention, and that such use has resulted in unexpected improvements in quality and production efficiency.

It is respectfully submitted that Exhibits A and B illustrate the long felt need for method and devices configured as recited by claims 1-5 of the present invention, and therefore that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to utilize rolling systems designed for symmetric strips (such as the system disclosed in Mitchell) for rolling or winding asymmetric

strips such as the strips of wedge-shaped cross section recited in claims 1-5 of the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-5 are now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration in the form of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned Attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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